

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. - 20. (Cancelled)

1 ~~21~~. (Currently amended) A method for promoting *ex vivo* expansion of hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells, said method comprising culturing hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells with a composition comprising: (a) purified midkine (MK) protein or purified pleiotrophin (PTN) protein; and (b) one or more other purified hematopoietic growth factors selected from the group consisting of interleukin-3 (IL-3), interleukin-6 (IL-6), granulocyte colony stimulating-factor (G-CSF), granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), stem cell factor (SCF), and erythropoietin (EPO).

2 ~~22~~. (Currently amended) A method for promoting *ex vivo* expansion of hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells, said method comprising culturing hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells with a composition comprising: (a) purified midkine (MK) protein; and (b) one or more other purified hematopoietic growth factors selected from the group consisting of interleukin-3 (IL-3), interleukin-6 (IL-6), granulocyte colony stimulating-factor (G-CSF), granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), stem cell factor (SCF), and erythropoietin (EPO).

3 ~~23~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~21~~¹, wherein the hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells are obtained from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or umbilical cord blood.

~~4~~ ¹24. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~21~~¹, wherein the hematopoietic stem cells are colony-forming units-mix (CFU-mix).

25. (Canceled)

⁵26. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[25]]~~¹ ~~21~~¹, wherein the other purified hematopoietic growth factors are IL-3, IL-6, SCF, and EPO.

~~6~~ ²27. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~22~~², wherein the hematopoietic stem cells or hematopoietic progenitor cells are obtained from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or umbilical cord blood.

⁷28. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~22~~², wherein the hematopoietic stem cells are colony-forming units-mix (CFU-mix).

29. (Canceled)

⁸ ~~30~~ ²30. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[29]]~~² ~~22~~², wherein the other purified hematopoietic growth factors are IL-3, IL-6, SCF, and EPO.